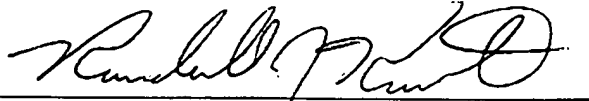


if the Examiner has any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 260/485-6001.

Respectfully submitted,



Randall J. Knuth  
Registration No. 34,644

RJK/jrw

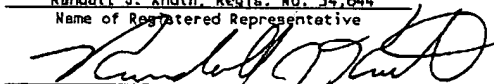
Encs: Replacement Claims  
Marked-up Claims

RANDALL J. KNUTH, P.C.  
3510-A Stellhorn Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815-4631  
Telephone: 260/485-6001  
Facsimile: 260/486-2794

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via facsimile with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to: 703/305-6078, on: February 24, 2003.

Randall J. Knuth, Regis. No. 34,644  
Name of Registered Representative



Signature

February 24, 2003

Date

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

*Please delete claims 1-14, 16, and 21-23 without prejudice.*

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

*Please delete claims 1-14 without prejudice.*

15. A welded product produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 1.

*Please delete claim 16 without prejudice.*

17. A welded product, produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 16.

18. A welding product produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 9.

19. A welding product produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 10.

20. A welding product produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 14.

*Please delete claims 21-23 without prejudice.*

24. A welded product, produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 21.

25. A welded product, produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 22.

26. A welded product, produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 23.